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1993/11/06

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ate Printed: 09/11/1997 DOC NUMBER: BEIJIN40186 CHANNEL: n/a 2
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ACTION EAP-01
INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00
DODE-00 EB-01 HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16
L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01
P-01 SIL-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00 STR-16 TRSE-00
USIE-00 RPE-01 CORE-00 /073W

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P 060353Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6295
INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
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 DENY IN PART EO Citations

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 CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 040186

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, CH
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PENDING TRIAL OF BEIJING 16
REF: BEIJING 34687

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.
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2. THE TRIAL OF THE 16 DISSIDENTS ARRESTED JUST PRIOR TO JUNE 4, 1992 FOR FORMING A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED, ACCORDING TO A WESTERN CONFIDENTIAL

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JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE TO THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS (STRICTLY PROTECT BOTH SOURCES.) THE CASE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RETURNED TO THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE BY THE COURT BECAUSE OF "INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE." THE TWO PROSECUTORS ON THE CASE HAVE ALSO BEEN REASSIGNED TO LONG-TERM TRAINING. ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS IS REPORTEDLY OUT ON MEDICAL PAROLE.

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3. THE JOURNALIST ALSO **UNCLASSIFIED** SOURCE HAD INFORMED

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HIM THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED A DIRECTIVE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AT THE URGING OF VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN TO TAKE A "SOFTER ATTITUDE" TOWARD POLITICAL CASES, INCLUDING THE BEIJING 16, BECAUSE OF THE "FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS."

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4. COMMENT: ASSUMING THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT, CHINESE AUTHORITIES SEEM TO BE SEARCHING FOR PROCEDURAL REASONS TO AVOID THIS PARTICULAR "HOT POTATO" OF A CASE, WHICH COULD DAMAGE IF NOT DERAIL IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND MAKE NEXT YEAR'S MFN DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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